Scientific Objectives	*Accomplishments*
(ii) Biological studies to continue and applicability of biofertiliser in hydroponic systems, making use of green house chamber.	Biological studies enroute to Antarctica, in the polyna and in the Antarctic lake continued. Green house established and hydroponic system also successfully tested. Cucumber, green chillies & tomatoes were grown.
(iii) Continuation of atmospheric and magnetospheric studies including modelling of atmospheric boundary layer. Mapping of atmospheric strata including Sound Detection and Ranging system (SODAR).	SODAR experiments successfully continued. Study of ozone layer also continued. The meteorological parameters for weather forecasting and hourly synoptic observations continued.
(iv) Establishment of three-axis microbarograph to record direction and speed of atmospheric disturbances in the lower planetary boundary layer.	Successfully established.
(v) Establishement of geomagnetic observatory at Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri and Wohlthat.	Successfully established.
(vi) Environmental physiology and psychological studies and the study of the behavioural changes to psychlogical circadain rhythm alternations in the extreme Antarctic conditions.	Various physiological and psychological data collected for laboratory analysis.

Implementation of zinconium titanium and magnet plant

3070 SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to implement the zirconium sponge plant at Palayakayal in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) what are the reasons for delay in completing the plant complex consisting of titanium sponge plant and magnesium plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) In respect of the Zirconium Sponge Plant, all preliminary site and project related work like acquisition of land, environment clearance, arrangement for power and water has been completed. The design of the industrial complex has also been taken up with the consultants.

(b) There is no delay in execution of these plants. Work is proceeding according to plan.

Food irradiation technology

3071. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per recent press reports (AEC) Atomic Energy Commission propose to promote food irradiation technology to cover many commonly sed food items both for home and exports and, if so, the details thereof

(b) whether Government are aware that Australia has benned food irradiation recently as also New Zealand and several other contries;

(c) whether Government are aware of the stiff consumer resistance in our export markets against food irradiation;